

Message Text

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ACTION AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11 L-03

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R 311545Z JUL 74

FM AMEMBASSY LUSAKA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 504

C O N F I D E N T I A L LUSAKA 1577

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, ZA

SUBJ: ZAMBIAN DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION

1. IN COURSE OF MEETING JULY 31 WITH PRESIDENT ON DEVELOPMENTS IN SOUTHERN AFRICA, I ASKED HOW HE SAW THE DOMESTIC POLITICAL SITUATION IN RELATION TO REOPENING OF NATIONAL ASSEMBLY AND CONSIDERATION THERE OF CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT BILL WHICH WOULD DENY DETAINEES RIGHT TO SUE THE STATE FOR PERSONAL, PROPERTY AND BUSINESS DAMAGES SUFFERED AS RESULT OF DETENTION. I NOTED THAT UNIVERSITY OF ZAMBIA STUDENTS DAY BEFORE HAD DEMONSTRATED ON CAMPUS AGAINST THE GOVERNMENT'S BILL. VISIBLY ANNOYED, THE PRESIDENT IGNORED MY QUESTION AND SAID ZAMBIA WAS MAKING PROGRESS AGAINST ARMED ROBBERS AND HE WAS PLEASED THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS HAD CAPTURED FOUR RECENTLY ESCAPED PRISONERS.

2. FROM FORMER ANC OPPOSITION ELEMENTS AND OTHER SOURCES IN LEGAL PROFESSION WE UNDERSTAND THERE IS STRONG DISTASTE AMONG BEMBA AND TONGA MEMBERS PARLIAMENT WHO REGARD BILL AS DENIAL OF HUMAN RIGHTS AND INTEND TO DEFEAT IT ON FLOOR OF ASSEMBLY UNLESS STATE HOUSE PERSUADED TO WITHDRAW IT. FORMER ANC PRESIDENT NKUMBULA TOLD US HE WOULD WARN PRESIDENT OF POSSIBILITY WHICH COULD BE PERSONALLY DAMAGING TO HIS LEADERSHIP AND AUTHORITY.

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3. IT WILL BE RECALLED THAT GOVERNMENT IN PAST LOST SEVERAL

SUITS AGAINST FORMER DETAINEES, THREE OF WHICH WON BY FORMER VICE PRESIDENT AND UPP OPPOSITION LEADER SIMON KAPWEPWE AGAINST GOVERNMENT CONTROLLED PRESS AND RADIO FOR TOTAL JUDGMENTS OF K60,000.

4. ONE GOVERNMENT SOURCE INFORMED US THAT UNIVERSITY STUDENT DEMONSTRATION AGAINST CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT INCITED BY THREE EXPATRIATE LEGAL PROFESSORS, ONE OF WHICH AN AMERICAN (PROF R.B. SEIDMAN, HARVARD AND COLUMBIA LAW). THREE REPORTEDLY ADVANCED THESIS THAT MOST AFRICAN GOVERNMENTS FOLLOWING INDEPENDENCE INCLINED TO BE REACTIONARY, CONCENTRATE ON SELF-ENRICHMENT OF TOP LEADERS, MAINTENANCE OF POWER, AND UNCONSCIOUSLY CULTIVATE ELITE SOCIAL CLASSES. ZAMBIA CONSIDERED TYPICAL.

5. PRESIDENT IS REPORTED TO HAVE REQUESTED SECURITY AUTHORITIES TO INVESTIGATE MATTER, EXPEL FOREIGN PROFESSORS AS PROHIBITED IMMIGRANTS IF CHARGES TRUE AND IDENTIFY STUDENTS FOR FORCED TRANSFER OF THEM TO THREE YEARS TRAINING IN NATIONAL (PARAMILITARY) SERVICE. WILKOWSKI

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